

April 2018
Edition

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New Motor Vehicle Board

In-Site

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TIMOTHY M. CORCORAN

It is a humbling experience to succeed Bill Brennan. Bill's legacy lives on in this industry and at this fine Board in the hearts and minds of our staff, and in the adornment of our principal meeting location with a new placard proudly welcoming visitors to the *William G. Brennan Hearing Room*.

I pledge to honor Bill through my dedication to push this Board forward in furtherance of its mission in supporting a healthy, fair, and competitive automotive marketplace for consumers in this great State. I share in Bill's appreciation for effective communication, collaboration and a resolve to make things better. I will look for opportunities to engage with you, our stakeholders, as we aspire to innovate, to modernize, and to progress.

I look forward to meeting you in the coming months, here in Sacramento and on the road at the various industry meetings and forums. Please feel

free to reach out to me. I am interested in your input and your perspective, and will value your thoughts and suggestions as the Board, its staff and I embark upon this next journey together.

Finally, I thank the Board for this opportunity to serve, and I promise to do so with the pride and honor that the Board deserves, and that Bill would expect.



NMVB Executive Director, Timothy M.
Corcoran

RECENT MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

OCTOBER 2, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING: The Board met on October 2, 2017 at its offices in Sacramento. The special meeting was held so the Board could consider the matter of the *California New Car Dealers Association v. Jaguar Land Rover North America, LLC*. This case was a matter of first impression for the Board, as it was the first export or sale-for-resale prohibition policy protest filed by an association under the newly enacted Vehicle Code section 3085.

NOVEMBER 7, 2017 GENERAL MEETING: The Board met on November 7, 2017 at its offices in Sacramento to handle general administrative matters. The Board gave an update on case management as well as designated Administrative Law Judge Merilyn Wong as the permanent mandatory settlement conference judge.

JANUARY 24, 2018 GENERAL MEETING: The Board met at its offices in Sacramento on January 24, 2018, to discuss several administrative matters. The Board held its annual election of officers and assignment of committee members. The Board also received several status reports and considered updates to its annual guides.

MARCH 13, 2018 GENERAL MEETING: The Board met on March 13, 2018, at its offices in Sacramento to discuss both case management and administrative matters. The Board heard and ultimately dismissed 6 incentive program and 6 modification protests for lack of jurisdiction. The Board also discussed proposed rulemaking as well as pending legislation, among other administrative matters.

Full agendas and materials can be found on the Board's website at www.nmvb.ca.gov.

INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE 2019

The Board will resume hosting its annual Industry Roundtable event in 2019. More information to come.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS' FALL 2018 WORKSHOP

The National Association of Motor Vehicle Boards and Commissions ("NAMVBC") will hold its annual workshop on September 19-22 in New Orleans, Louisiana at the Embassy Suites (near the New Orleans Convention Center).

The NAMVBC expects an outstanding group of speakers and participants during this great opportunity to interact with your colleagues and leaders in the motor vehicle industry.

The event will begin with a welcome reception on Wednesday, September 19 and go through Saturday, September 22, ending with the annual, informal roundtable discussion of current issues affecting regulators in the motor vehicle industry.

For more information please visit www.namvbc.org.

LAW FIRM AND MANUFACTURER PROCEDURAL TRAINING AVAILABLE

The Board's legal staff is offering one-on-one telephonic training regarding the procedural aspects of the Board to provide guidance to manufacturers as well as law firms that practice before the Board. Whether you have been practicing for many years before the Board or you occasionally file a protest, the Board wants to keep you and your staff educated on our procedures.

The training will provide comprehensive instruction by Board legal staff regarding the procedural aspects of practicing before the Board as well as answer any questions your office may have about the Board's processes.

If you are a legal firm, manufacturer/distributor or in-house counsel and would like to set up one-on-one training for your attorneys and clerical staff, please call Danielle Vare at 916-327-3129 or Robin Parker at 916-323-1536.

Board legal staff are also able to address specific procedural questions as they may arise. If you are in need of assistance regarding Board procedures, please feel free to email Danielle Vare at dvare@nmvb.ca.gov or Robin Parker at rparker@nmvb.ca.gov for assistance.

TECHNICIAN SHORTAGE IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

The New Motor Vehicle Board recently informally surveyed several large automotive manufacturers and distributors in regard to the status of available and trained technicians in the automotive industry. The general consensus has been that there is a decline in automotive technicians (and trade technicians across many industries). This also confirms the findings in a report published by the non-profit TechForce Foundation. TechForce published a report earlier this year titled "Transportation Technician New Entrant Demand" which details just how urgently technicians are needed. The Bureau of Labor Statistics ("BLS") projects an annual demand of 75,900 automotive technicians for the 10-year period of 2016-2026. This is in contrast to the projected demand for the 2014-2024 time period, which was originally 23,720 technicians.

Steve Muthig, Vice President Service, Customer Support for Suzuki Motor of America, Inc. explained, "The shortage of qualified technicians is not unique to the motor vehicle industry, and exist[s] in most service related 'trades'. As the systems within motor vehicles have become more sophisticated due to advances in exhaust gas emissions, occupant safety and other systems, the level of training required by a technician continues to increase to levels previously not seen in automotive industries."

Currently, Assembly Bill 1743 is seeking to maintain high quality career technical education programs and provide opportunities for students to participate in leadership programs by extending funding for the Career Technical Education Incentive Grant Program at \$500 million per year and establishing funding for regional technical assistance of \$12 million per year.

According to Johan Gallo at the California Automotive Business Coalition, the real issue is attracting new employees and hopefully AB 1743 will help put a dent in the technician shortage.

Some manufacturers and distributors are also attempting to address the shortage issue through their own programs. For example, Audi has an Education Partnership program where it partners with trade schools across the country to donate tools and products to help educate

students and get them interested in the automotive industry.

Since 2011, Audi has almost doubled its technicians from 2,000 to 3,500. Matthew Shepanek, Manager of Technical Training at Audi, remarked that young people may not be going into automotive trades now due to previous conceptions about dealerships.

However, modern perceptions are changing and dealerships are clean, organized businesses that are positive places of employment.

Nissan has also noticed the shortage in dealership technicians in markets throughout the country, according to Nissan's Senior Counsel, Cecil Davis. It currently works with five Universal Technical Institute (UTI) training schools across the United States to provide Nissan and Infiniti vehicle-specific training curriculum and hands-on learning. Nissan is looking to expand its relationships with other National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation certified schools to identify local high school students who want to enter into vocational school training. Nissan also provides scholarship assistance to top performing students in the UTI program to further enhance their skills through Nissan and Infiniti specific programs or academies.

The California New Car Dealers Association (CNCDA) also has a Scholarship Foundation which continues to carry out the important mission of encouraging and supporting students interested in careers in the automotive industry. Since 1995, the CNCDA Scholarship Foundation has awarded scholarships to over 1,025 students - totaling \$871,031 .

For more information regarding CNCDA's 2018 scholarship program, please visit their website at: <https://www.cncda.org/about/foundation/>



NEW MOTOR VEHICLE BOARD STAFF REMEMBER

WILLIAM G. BRENNAN

It's hard to believe he's gone.

No more knocks on the front door from him every morning saying he forgot his office keys. No more crazy Hawaiian shirts and salmon colored slacks. No more "Good going" and high-fives.

I remember the day he was diagnosed. No big deal. He wasn't too worried. Prostate cancer is slow growing. We agreed he'd likely die of something else. Radiation was a piece of cake. We celebrated his last treatment with cupcakes!

Follow-ups with his oncologist were good; until they weren't. Chemo wasn't too bad; until it was. Clinical trials, lots of pills, even a bit of cannabis lotion to help him with what had gone from no big deal, to a battle for his life. We watched as his hair fell out. No more "Mitt Romney" hair. He didn't care. He just wore a hat. We watched him weaken to the point he needed help to stand. We were happy to help. Through it all, he kept on working and assuring all of us that he was doing everything he could to stick around. He could see our pain, and though he was the one dying, he tried to comfort us.

I lost track of the number of people who called to see how he was. I'd say, ask him yourself, he's in the office! No one could believe he was still working!

Then came the call that his family had intervened and laid down the law. No more work. Time to leave Sacramento and be closer to family down south. They whisked him away in the dead of night on a private plane like he was in the witness protection program! I wish.

Staff were able to visit and Skype with him and we all had the chance to say goodbye.

The memorial and burial ceremonies were amazing and we all went to pay our respects.

A good friend of Bill's told me "we are incredibly lucky to have had him in our lives." I hold onto that.

Still can't believe he's gone.

-Dawn Kindel

Bill always showed up to work with a smile on his face and a positive attitude. His positive energy was infectious and he always had a "good going" when hearing about your current work or project.

He always had an interesting or funny story to tell. He was such an amazing person and someone who I certainly will never forget.

-Holly Victor

Bill was always the life of every party. He had the energy of a couple of teenagers and never said "no" to anything fun. He would drive all night long coming home from the beach house, wouldn't have slept the entire time, yet would still be to work on time.

Bill was the best Dad and Grandpa—he supported his entire family and they were everything to him.

No one but Bill could wear a seersucker suit, or green or salmon colored pants with Oxfords, and get away with it.

-Robin Parker

Bill was someone who was so full of life. He had such a positive attitude and outlook, even as things got harder toward the end of his illness. He had so many amazing stories to tell and his life was full of some remarkable experiences, of which I'm sure I didn't even hear half. However, his joy and zest for life will remain with me. He was a stand-up guy and a family man and he will surely be missed.

-Danielle Vare

I'll always remember Bill for his laid back easy-going attitude and his questionable fashion choices. I'm sure he'll remember I never showed him exactly how my head wrap stays intact. I knew for a fact he'd beat this, but soon staff meetings went from in person to FaceTime. I didn't mind, I was thankful his family let us continue to talk with him. His video calls were always a delight. I was excited to see his joyful smile and return one back. He'd ask US how WE are all doing – as if he wasn't battling a chronic illness. He had a beautiful soul and it takes experiences like that to realize your everyday problems are peanuts to an elephant. Nothing was a big deal with Bill, and there was always time. Problems weren't problems we just needed "a different way to approach this". Even in his final moments when the inevitable was obvious his optimism never left and he even managed to convince me he was returning! We should've bet on it. He always won our bets.

-Makalla Turner

Bill was truly a genuine person. He would always ask "how are you doing"? You always knew he cared. He was a true family man and he loved talking about his children. If you had the chance to know him, consider yourself very lucky. I will always miss him.

-Suzanne Luke



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WILLIAM G. BRENNAN 1943-2017



NEW BOARD MEMBER ARDASHES KASSAKHIAN

The Board welcomes new Public Board Member Ardashes "Ardy" Kassakhian. Mr. Kassakhian is the elected City Clerk for the City of Glendale, California. Prior to his election in 2005, he worked in public affairs and public relations in the private sector and specialized in government relations and community organizing. We welcome Ardy to the Board!



Ardashes "Ardy" Kassakhian

NEW PROTEST MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive an e-mail with a PDF of each new protest filed with the Board, please contact Eugene Ohta at (916) 327-7261 or eohta@nmvb.ca.gov.

FOND FAREWELLS

The Board bids fond farewells to former Board Member Ryan L. Brooks and retired Administrative Law Judge Victor D. Ryerson.

Mr. Brooks was appointed to the New Motor Vehicle Board in 2006 and served for almost 12 years as a public member. He was actively engaged in the Board's business and served on several committees throughout his tenure.

Judge Ryerson was appointed as an Administrative Law Judge at the Board in 2011 and presided over hearings for over six years. He served the public throughout his career, both at the Board and at the Public Utilities Commission where he was also previously a judge.

We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors!

NEW SECRETARY OF CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

Brian C. Annis has been appointed Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) after former Secretary Brian P. Kelly became Chief Executive Officer of the California High Speed Rail Authority. Secretary Annis has worked at CalSTA since 2012 and will oversee seven different Departments, Commissions and Boards, including the New Motor Vehicle Board.



California State Transportation Agency Secretary Brian C. Annis

New Motor Vehicle Board

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